(c) The allocation in Ninth Plan for Defence R&D is proposed to be more than 6.25% of the overall Defence budget.

Employment to family members of Air Force personnel died in Aircrash

3857. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations for employment have been received from family members of Air Force personnel who died in aircrash between Tambaram and Hyderabad on 24th December, 1996;

(b) whether family members of these personnel were assured of all assistance by the then Minister of State for Defence and Air Chief Marshall;

(c) whether a representation dated 19th February, 1997 for employment in Ichhapur Rifle Factory or Metal and Steel Factory was received;

(d) if so, whether Government are aware that despite Air Headquarters forwarding this representation to Ordance Factory Board, no action has been taken in this regard; and

(e) What prompt action Government propose to take in this case.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The representation for employment was forwarded to Ordance Factory Board (Cell) on 19.2.1997, since the employment sought was in Rifle Factory or Metal and Steel Factory at Ichhapur. Shri Bijay Kumar Chakraborty, father of deceased airman was also informed accordingly for his future referece in the matter. Ordance Factory Board in thier reply dated 7th April 1998 to Shri Bijay Kumar Chakraborty have intimated that there is no rule under which employment to his second son Shri Ranjit Chakraborty can be given by them, as his deceased son was working in the Air Force. He was accordingly advised to approach the Air Force authorities where his deceased son worked Earlier, employment for his third son Shri Surajit chakraborty was also sought. Shri Bijay Kumar Chakraborty had been informed on 15 July 1997 by Air Force authorities that his third son would be attaining the minimum age of 18 years for service only in 1999.

There has been no further reference either from Shri Bijay Kumar Chakraborty or his sons in this regard.

Mobile air defence system

3858. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level defence delegation led by Defence Secretary visited Russia recently;

(b) if so, whether a deal for mobile air defence system was signed during the visit; and

(c) the cost and other details of the deal?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

New version of SU-30 MK

3859. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has developed a new version of SU-30 MK to suit the specific needs of India;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and how far it meets the specific requirements of India; and

(c) by when the air craft are likely to be handed over to India?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir, such a version is being developed.